



Ironwood Forest National Monument Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



RECREATION, VISUAL, AND TRANSPORTATION Draft - Glossary of Terms

Adaptive Management: The process of implementing policy decisions as scientifically driven management experiments that test predictions and assumptions in management plans, and using the resulting information to improve the plans.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV): A small, amphibious motor vehicle with wheels or tractor treads for traveling over rough ground, snow, or ice, as well as on water. For the purposes of this document, an all-terrain vehicle is defined as a motor vehicle that: (a) is designed primarily for recreational non-highway all-terrain travel, (b) is fifty or fewer inches in width, (c) has an unladen weight of eight hundred pounds or less, (d) travels on three or more low pressure tires, and (e) has a seat designed to be straddled by the operator, and handlebars for steering control.

(Note that Arizona Revised Statute 28-101.3 refers only to vehicles operated on a public highway and, per Arizona Revised Statute 28-101.34, the term "off-road recreational motor vehicle" refers to a motor vehicle that is designed primarily for recreational non-highway all-terrain travel and that is not operated on a public highway. This document does not distinguish between the two).

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): An area of public lands designated by BLM for special management attention to protect and prevent irreparable damage to resources or natural systems, or to protect life/provide safety from natural hazards. Areas designated as ACECs have met criteria for importance and relevance that are outlined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2(b).

Conservation Strategy: A strategy outlining current activities or threats that are contributing to the decline of a species, along with the actions or strategies needed to reverse or eliminate such a decline or threats. Conservation strategies are generally developed for species of plants and animals that are designated as BLM Sensitive Species or that have been determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service to require protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Cumulative Impacts: An impact on the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative impacts are evaluated as part of the EIS, and may include consideration of additive or interactive effects regardless of what agency or person undertakes the other actions. Cumulative impacts occur when there are multiple infringements on the same values.

Desired Future Condition: Desired land use planning outcomes in terms of specific goals, standards, and objectives for resource protection.

Developed Recreation: Recreation that requires facilities that result in further concentrated use of the area. For example, off-road vehicles require parking lots and trails. Campgrounds require roads, picnic tables, and toilet facilities.

Dispersed Recreation: Recreation that does not occur on a developed recreation site, such as hunting, backpacking, and scenic driving.

Distance Zones: A subdivision of the landscape as viewed from an observer position. The subdivision (zones) includes foreground-middleground, background, and seldom seen.

- **Foreground-Middleground Zone**-This is the area that can be seen from each travel route for a distance of 3 to 5 miles where management activities might be viewed in detail. The outer boundary of this distance zone is defined as the point where the texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape.
- **Background Zone**-This is the remaining area which can be seen from each travel route to approximately 15 miles. In order, to be included within this distance zone, vegetation should be visible at least as patterns of light and dark.
- **Seldom-Seen Zone**-These are areas that are not visible within the foreground-middleground and background zones and areas beyond the background zones.

Equestrian: Of horses, horsemen, or horseback riding.

Game Species: Any species of wildlife or fish that is managed for hunters.

Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review: This policy provides guidance for managing existing Wilderness Study Areas to ensure that an area's wilderness values are not impaired prior to the establishment of a wilderness area or an area's release from consideration for this status.

Key Observation Point (KOP): One or a series of points on a travel route or at a use area or a potential use area, where the view of a management activity would be most revealing. Sensitivity levels are assigned to the KOPs that measure (e.g., high, medium, or low) of public concern for the maintenance of scenic quality.

Landscape: An aggregate of different but interacting landforms, sometimes united by a cultural attribute (e.g. a mosaic of farmland including tilled fields, woodlots, stock ponds, swales, and fencerows). Landscape ecology generally operates at a scale of at least many hectares or, more often, several square kilometers.

Multiple Use: Multiple use as defined by the Multiple Use – Sustained Yield Act 1960 means, (1) the management of all the various renewable surface resources so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people, (2) making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions, (3) that some land will be used for less than all of the resources, and (4) harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will be given the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV): A vehicle (including four-wheel drive, trail bikes, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles, but excluding helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, and boats) capable of traveling off road over land, water, ice, snow, sand, marshes, and other terrain.

OHV Designations:

- **Closed** – Applies to areas and trails where the use of OHVs is permanently or temporarily prohibited. Emergency use of vehicles is allowed.
- **Limited** – Applies to areas and trails where the use of OHVs is subject to restrictions such as limiting the number or types of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions), limiting use to existing roads and trails, or limiting use to designated roads or trails. Under the designated roads and trails designation, use is allowed only on roads and trails that are signed for use. Combinations of restrictions, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year, are possible.
- **Open** – Applies to areas and trails where OHVs may be operated subject to operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in BLM Manual parts 8341 and 8343.

Permit: Permits are one of three forms of land use authorizations (the others are leases and easements). Permits are short-term, revocable authorizations to use public lands for specific purposes that involve either little or no land improvement, construction, or investment, which can be amortized within the term of the permit. A permit conveys no possessory interest. The permit is renewable at the discretion of the authorized officer and may be revoked in accordance with its terms and applicable regulations.

Place-Based Values: Refers to an individual's or group's attachment to a specific geographic area. It relates to the concept of "sense of place," or a link between social experiences and geographic areas. Contributing qualities include personal memory, community history, physical landscape appearance, and emotional attachment. These values are subjective, and may be developed based on perceptions about amenities (such as recreational opportunities), historic or symbolic activities and places, or landscape and scenic vistas.

Reclamation: The process of converting disturbed land to its former use or other productive uses.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS): ROS is a conceptual planning tool that characterizes recreation opportunities in terms of setting, activity, and experience opportunities. ROS is based on a set of criteria according to a land's physical, social, and managerial settings, which in combination define a land area's capability and suitability for providing a particular range of recreational experience opportunities. In ROS, the setting, activities, and opportunities for experiences are arranged along a spectrum of six classes: (1) primitive, (2) semi-primitive non-motorized, (3) semi-primitive motorized, (4) roaded natural, (5) rural, and (6) urban. The resulting ROS analysis defines specific geographic areas on the ground, each of which encompasses one of the six classes.

Recreation Zones: A land use allocation that establishes and delineates areas to be managed according to designated recreation opportunities, settings, and activities, along the continuum from primitive to urban.

Rehabilitate: Restore to a state of good condition or operation. (e.g., a management alternative and/or practice that restores landscapes to a desired scenic quality). The level of rehabilitation will be determined through the RMP process by assigning the Visual Resource Management class approved for that particular area.

Restoration: The process of restoring site conditions as they were before land disturbance. Note: restoration involves restoring a site to a specific point in time.

Roadless: Refers to an absence of roads constructed and maintained by mechanical means.

Road: Vehicle routes that are improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. (A way maintained strictly by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road).

Scenic Area: An area whose landscape character exhibits a high degree of variety and harmony among the basic elements that results in a pleasant landscape to view.

Scenic Quality: The relative worth of a landscape from a visual perception point of view. The seven factors (landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications) used to evaluate the scenic quality of a landscape. The relative scenic quality (A, B, or C) assigned a landscape by applying the scenic quality evaluation key factors; scenic quality A being the highest rating, B a moderate rating, and C the lowest rating. The scenic quality-rating unit is defined as a portion of the landscape, which displays primarily homogenous visual characteristics of the basic landscape features (land and water form, vegetation, and structures).

Sensitivity Level Analysis: Sensitivity levels are a measure of public concern for scenic quality. Public lands are assigned high, medium, or low sensitivity levels by analyzing the various indicators of public concern (e.g., type of user, amount of use, public interest, adjacent land uses, special areas).

Transportation Right-Of-Way: Land associated with highways and railroads authorized to be used or occupied for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project, pursuant to a right-of-way authorization.

Travel and Transportation Management System: A program to be developed by BLM to manage access to and through IFNM for motorized, mechanized, and nonmotorized recreation. Travel would be managed through a network of authorized routes and access points. A management plan would be developed to provide policy and guidance for addressing the regulation, maintenance, and monitoring of the routes and other components of the travel and transportation system. (With regard to the IFNM, the management plan refers specifically to the Proclamation, which states “The Secretary of the Interior shall prepare a transportation plan that addresses the actions, including road closures or travel restrictions, necessary to protect the objects identified in this proclamation”).

Viewshed: The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions, from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor.

Visual Resources: The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features). Visual resources are managed by inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual values and to establish objectives for managing those values; and the management actions taken to achieve the visual management objectives.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): The inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual resource values and to establish objectives for managing those values. Also, management actions taken to achieve the established objectives.

Visual Resource Management Classes: Categories assigned to public lands based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. There are four classes. Each class has an objective, which prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape.

- VRM Class I Objective. The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- VRM Class II Objective. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- VRM Class III Objective. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- VRM Class IV Objectives. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.